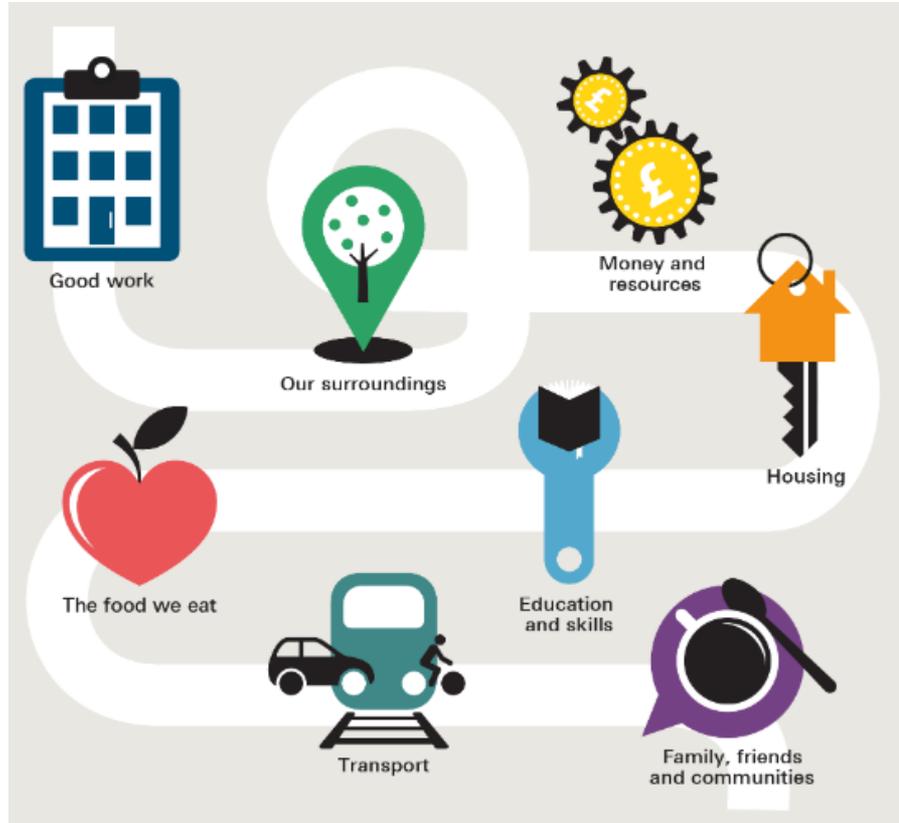


# Levelling up health

David Finch, Assistant Director, Healthy Lives

# Our health is inextricably connected to our social and economic outcomes

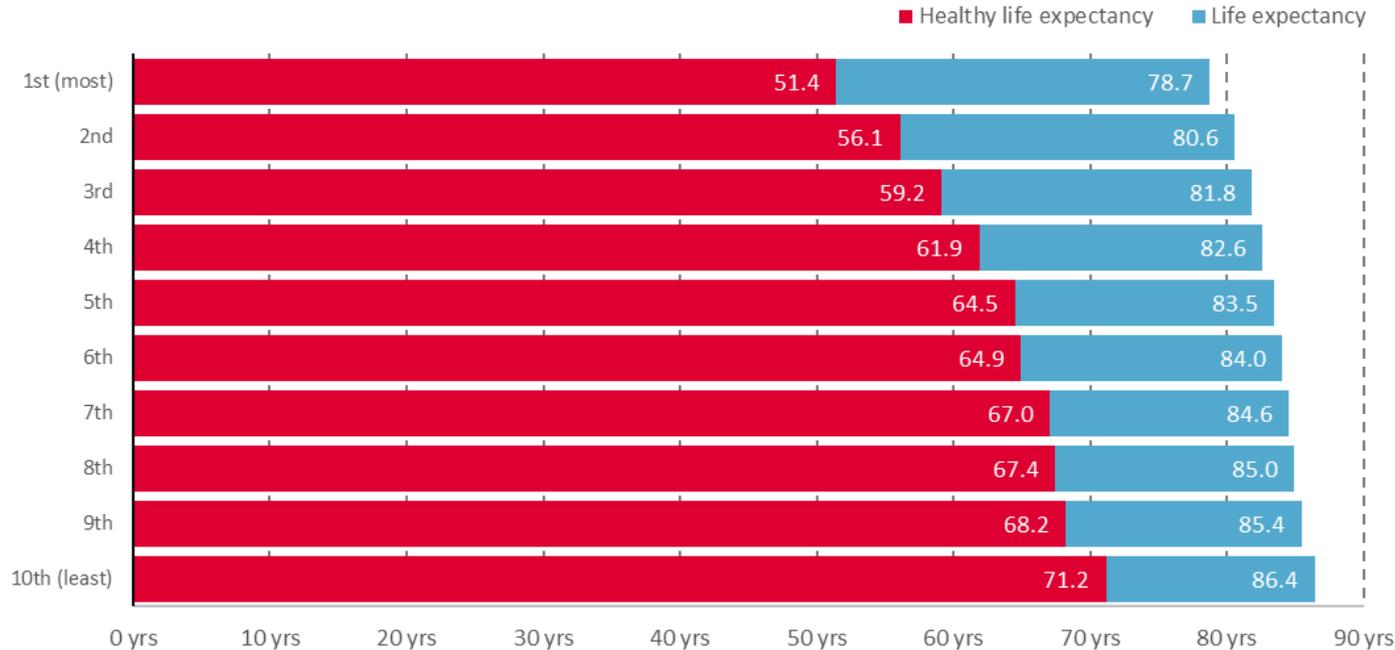


The greatest influences on our health are the circumstances in which we live

....and good health is essential for individuals, and society, to thrive

# Before the pandemic there was a 20-year healthy life expectancy gap between the least and most deprived areas

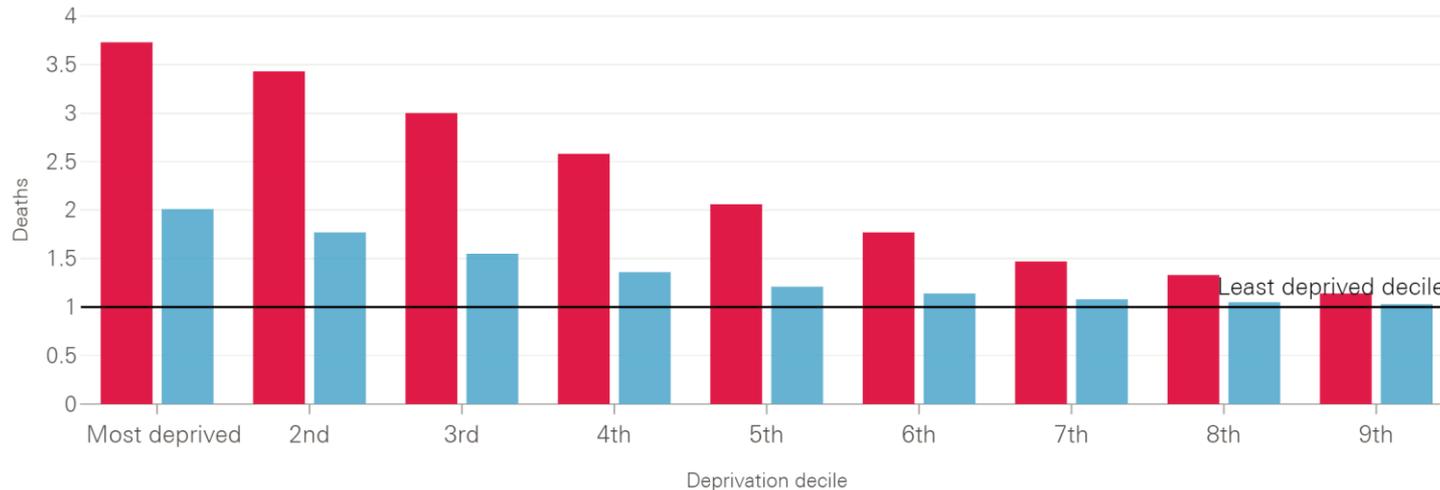
Life expectancy & healthy life expectancy at birth by decile of deprivation, England: 2017-19  
*Women (years of life)*



# Working age COVID-19 mortality rates were nearly four times higher in the most deprived areas

Age-standardised mortality rates for deaths due to COVID-19, deprivation decile relative to the least deprived decile by age  
 England, March 2020 to May 2021

■ Younger than 65 age-standardised mortality rate ratio relative to least deprived decile  
■ Older than 65 age-standardised mortality rate ratio relative to least deprived decile



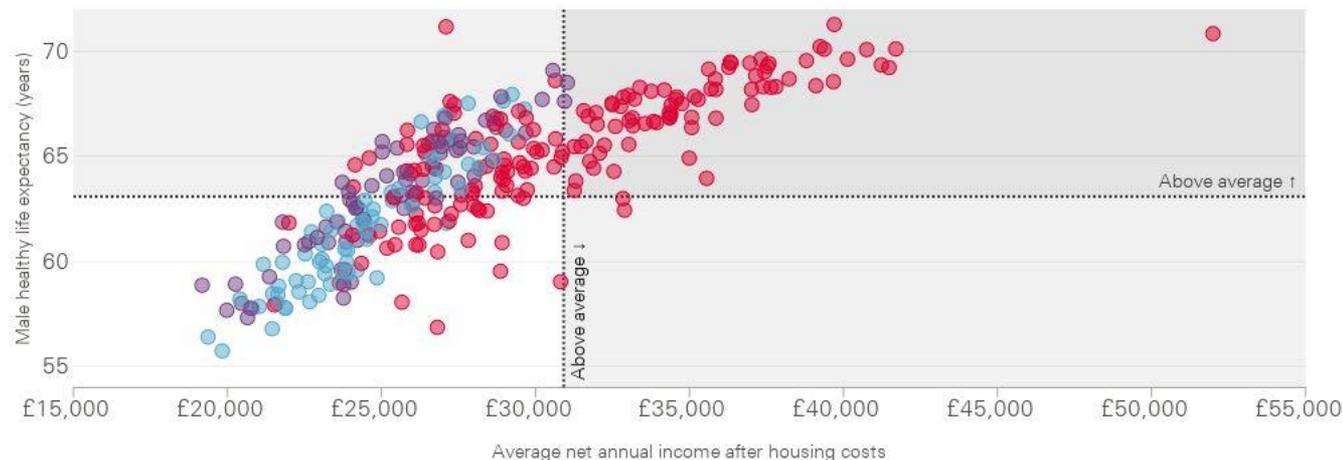
# Higher healthy life expectancy is associated with higher income

Local areas of England with lower healthy life expectancy are more likely to have low income and be in the north

Male healthy life expectancy at birth, by average household income: England

Use the filter to find an area or click on the legend to see only that region:

● South ● North ● Midlands

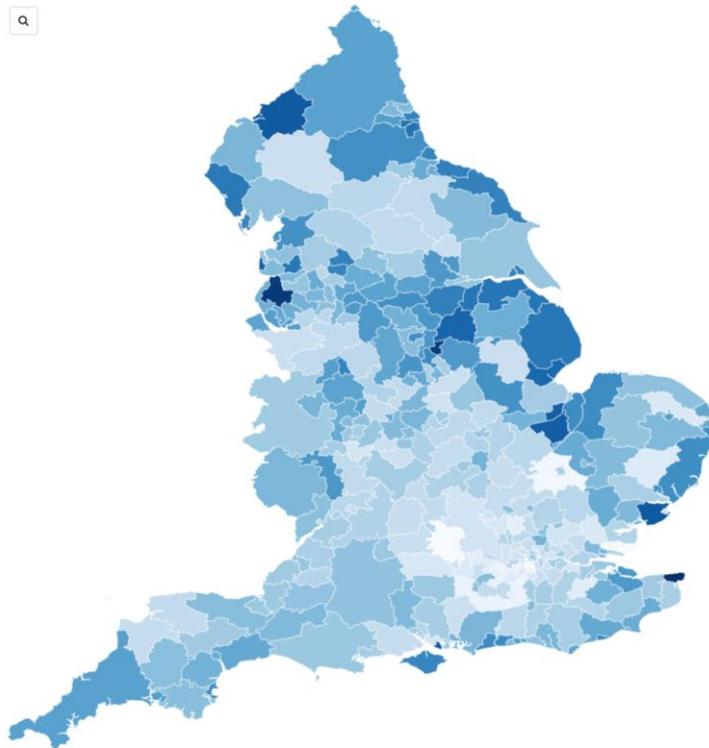


# Levelling up health is key to levelling up the economy

Prevalence of work-limiting conditions and disability in the working-age population

Proportion of 16-64 population who have a work limiting disability (%)

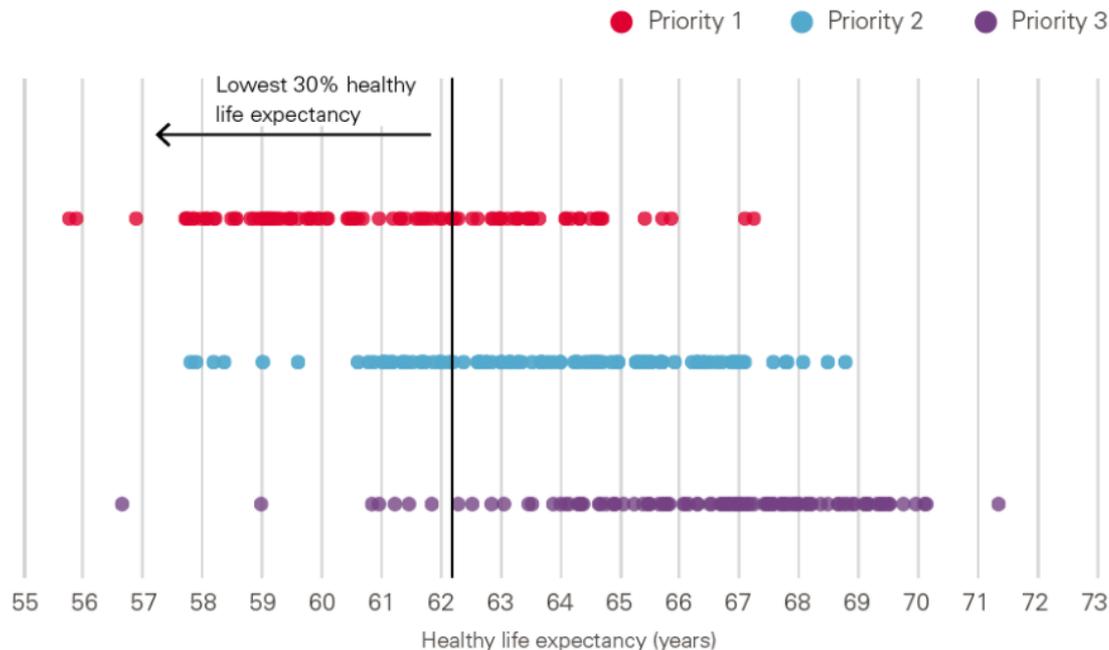
7.9  27.87



- In 15% of council areas in Great Britain, over a fifth of the working-age population have a work-limiting health condition or impairment
- The employment rate for people with a work-limiting condition is 47%, compared with 81% for people without.
- A 1 year increase in healthy life expectancy for men is associated with a 2ppt increase in the employment rate

# The levelling up fund did not prioritise health

Male healthy life expectancy 2009–13 compared with priority group for the Levelling Up Fund, England



- Of the 93 local areas with male healthy life expectancy in the lowest 30% for England only 58 were included in priority group 1

# Ending the Universal Credit £20 uplift risks widening health inequalities

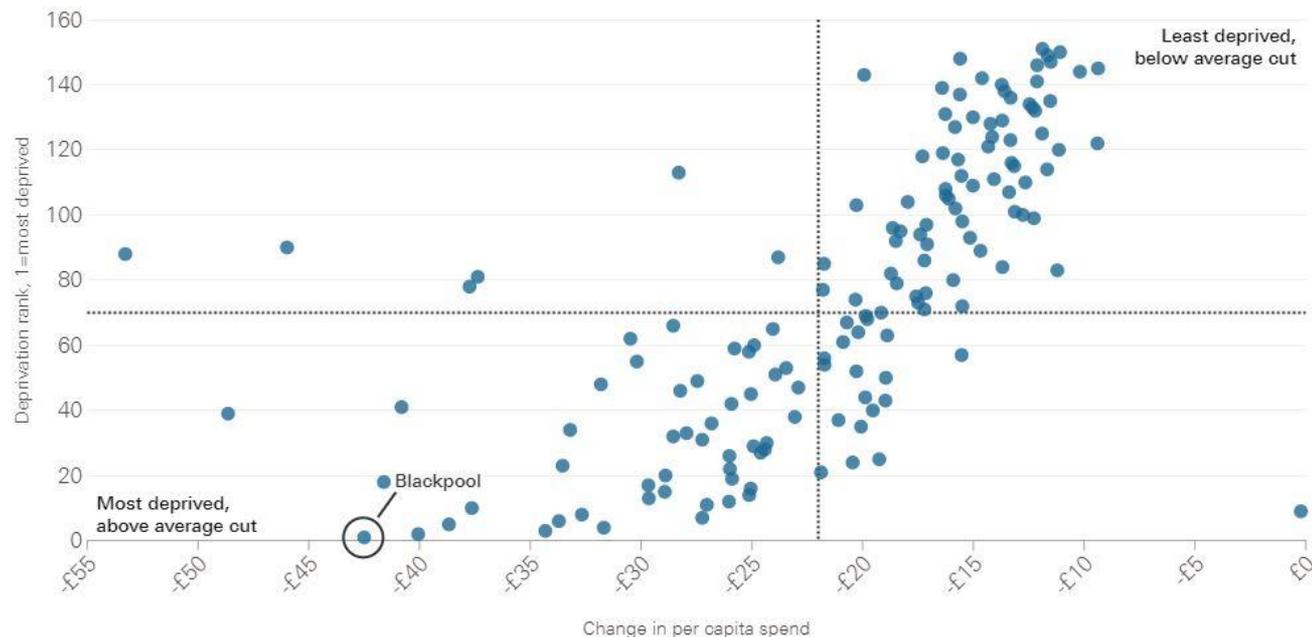
Local authorities with a higher proportion of the population receiving Universal Credit or Working Tax Credit also tend to have lower healthy life expectancy

All



# Cuts to public health have been greater in more deprived areas

Real-terms per capita change in public health grant allocations by local authority and deprivation rank: England, 2015/16 to 2021/22



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## Opportunities to improve health

- Shaping policies for the pandemic recovery
- The levelling up White Paper and establishment of the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities
- The development of Integrated Care Systems
- Tackling longer term pressures from ageing society and environment

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# Our partnerships with local government aim to improve health

## **Economies for Healthier Lives**

- A grant programme aiming to strengthen local relationships and better understand how economic development can improve health and reduce inequalities locally
- It will support up to four partnerships across the UK across a range of interventions including employment, skills and developing anchor networks
- Partnerships will be led by a local authority or a statutory regional body and will bring together a range of organisations including an academic and collaboration partner.

## **Shaping places for Healthier Lives**

- A joint grant programme with the Local Government Association for councils to work with partners from their local area to improve health and address health inequalities.
- It aims to provide learning on how to make changes that impact on the wider determinants of health
- The scheme will support action on: Food insecurity, mental health, and crime and anti-social behaviour.

Thank you